

KATHLEEN WICKER**Biographical Data:**

Education: University of North Carolina, Greensboro

NACA/NASA Experience: Hired in 1945; Computing Pool; Bell Computing Section

Recruited while she was in college by Virginia Tucker, who had come to UNC Greensboro on a recruiting visit, Kathleen Wicker began at Langley in 1945. She started out in the Computing Pool, but was told she and three others from her class were slated to work with Langley's new Bell Computer, once it came in. In a 1990 interview, Wicker recalled not being entirely clear on what the Bell Computer was, since at the time "computer" typically referred to a job title, not a machine. She described the Bell Computer as a "relay machine" that caused a relay to open and close for each operation, and was very impressive technology for the time. Kathleen Wicker went on to work with computers for thirty-five years.

Sources:

["Panel Discussion with Women Computers"](#) NASA Langley videotape, December 13, 1990.